

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:AUGUST 27 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SHIPER (NYT) REPORTS FROM LAOS THAT VIENTIANE HAS SHRUGGED OFF LAST MONDAY'S COUP ATTEMPT IN A SPIRIT OF NONCHALANCE AND SELF-DEPRECATING HUMOR. THE CURFEW HAS BEEN RELAXED, THEATERS ARE BACK ON SCHEDULE, AND RESTAURANTS ARE DOING NORMAL WEEKEND BUSINESS.

2. MARKHAM (NYT) FROM SAIGON REPORTS THAT GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY 92 OF THE 7,050,000 VOTERS TURNED OUT FOR SENATE ELECTIONS (CSM, SUN, PHINQ, WP). EXPECTED UPPER HOUSE MAJORITY PAVES WAY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT THIEU TO RUN THIRD TERM (SUN, WP).

3. COMMUNISTS, NEUTRALIST AND OPPOSITION FORCES BOYCOTTED AND ARE DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM ELECTION (CSM, PHINQ).

4. MILITARY SOURCES REPORTED FIERCE FIGHTING IN KONTUM PROVINCE (CHITRIB, CSM, PHINQ, WP, SUN).

5. GOVERNMENT CHARGE VC KILLED 8 PEOPLE NEAR POLLING SITES (CSM, CHITRIB, NYDN). WIRE SERVICES SAY THIEU SUPPORTERS SWEEPED ALL SEATS.

6. FROM VIENTIANE, PEAGAN (CSM) REPORTS, ON BASIS NVN PRESS SCREENING, PEACE MEANS MORE RICE IN NVN. NATIONAL TARGET IS 5 TONS OF UNHUSKED (PADDY) RICE PER HECTARE.

7. SECDEF SCHLESINGER ON TV'S "MEET THE PRESS" SAYS THAT THERE ARE PERIODIC REPORTS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN NVA AND KI WHICH COULD BE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IF IT CONTINUES, AND THAT GKR HAS SURPRISED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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KI BY STRENGTH OF ITS RESISTENCE SINCE BOMBING HALT (NYT; AP CHITRIB). SCHLESINGER WARNS THAT US PUBLIC WOULD SUPPORT NEW MILITARY ACTION IN INDOCHINA IF HANOI COMMITS MANIFEST, OVERT AGGRESSION (SUN). NVA-KI CLASHES DUE TO TERRITORIAL DISPUTES AND SCARCE RICE SUPPLIES (PHINQ; SUN). CSM QUOTES NYT THAT CAMBODIAN REFUGEES REPORT RECENT INTENSE FIGHTING BETWEEN NVA AND KI ALONG SVN BORDER.

8. LAIRD ON TV'S "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" SAYS THAT, DESPITE STEPPED-UP FIGHTING, PRES. HAS NO PRESENT PLANS TO SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR MORE BOMBING BUT MAY IF NEED ARISES (NYT). LAIRD REFUSES TO SPECULATE

WHETHER FALL OF PP WOULD LEAD ADMINISTRATION TO RECOMMIT US FORCES TO INDOCHINA (SUN). PHINQ REPORTS LAIRD IN FAVOR OF NEGOTIATIONS BUT REFUSES TO DISCUSS MANSFIELD'S SUGGESTION. NYDN SAYS LAIRD PROMISES CONSIDERATION AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF MANSFIELD'S SUGGESTION FOR SIHANOUK RESTORATION THAT WAS RELAYED TO WH SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. MANSFIELD ON "FACE THE NATION" SAID THAT HE RECEIVED A PROPOSAL FROM SIHANOUK TO EFFECT THAT IN RETURN FOR AN END TO US SUPPORT FOR LON NOL HE WOULD ESTABLISH NEUTRALIST GOVT. AND MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US.

9. FIGHTING FLARES ANEW IN CAMBODIA. BROWNE (NYT) REPORTS BOTH ROUTE 4 TO KOMPONG SOM AND ROUTE 5 TO BATTAMBANG CUT WITH HEAVY ENGAGEMENTS CONTINUING ON BOTH, LEAVING MEKONG AS PP'S ONLY REMAINING VITAL LOC. GKR CLAIMS 200 KILLED AND 100 WEAPONS SEIZED IN CLASH AT ANGKOR CHEY ON ROUTE 1, 18 MI SE OF PP. HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES AT ENCIRCLED KOMPONG CHAM. LON NOL ATTACKS SIHANOUK ON RADIO FOR WANTING TO COMMUNIZE CAMBODIA (ALSO PHINQ). AP (CHITRIB, SUN, NYDN) SAYS SOME BELIEVE NVA SUPPLY TRAILS INTERSECT ROUTES 4 AND 5 SO CUTS MAY BE AN EFFORT BY NVA TO SECURE ITS TRAILS; OTHERS SEE ROUTE INTERDICTION AS ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE PP.

FOR CONTINUING WAR, APPEALS TO HIM TO RENOUNCE COMMUNISM AND HELP BRING PEACE. AP SAYS SIRIK MATAK CALLS UNCLASSIFIED

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ON SIHANOUK TO ADMIT HE ALONE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONARCHY'S FALL AND INVOLVEMENT OF CAMBODIA IN VN WAR.

11. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND OBSERVES THAT SIHANOUK, CONSIDERED FINISHED YEAR AGO, NOW IS SEEN BY DIPLOMATS AS KEY FIGURE IN NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. FEELS COMEBACK IS DUE TO PEASANTS' VENERATION AS GOD-KING AND NVA/KI WILLINGNESS EXPLOIT THIS BY MAKING PRINCE TITULAR HEAD. CHINESE SUPPORT HIM TO LIMIT RUSSIAN AND PERHAPS NVN INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA. EXILE HAS DAMPENED NEITHER SIHANOUK'S EBULLIENCE NOR HIS VOLUBILITY, BUT HAS BROUGHT HIM MORE AUSTERE LIFE-STYLE.

12. IN PP, REP. LONG (D. MD), OF HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN OPERATIONS, SEES US BOMBING AS WRONG IN EVERY WAY, BUT WOULD NOT OPPOSE INCREASED AID TO GKR -- THOUGH HE KNOWS OF NO PRESENT PLAN TO REQUEST THIS. BOMBING FUTILE BECAUSE NO INFANTRY FOLLOW-UP; GKR OFFICIALS OPTIMISTIC DUE TO RISING RAINY-SEASON WATERS AND HEAVY PRE-AUG. 15 KI CASUALTIES. LONG IS ON ECONOMY DRIVE, BUT STATES THIS DOESN'T

IMPLY LESS FOR CAMBODIA; OK'S MORE AID IF CUTS MADE
IN OTHER COUNTRIES (AP, SUN).

13. USAF ANNOUNCES THAT RADAR NAVIGATOR ABOARD B-
52 THAT ACCIDENTALLY BOMBED NEAK LUONG IS FINED AND
REPRIMANED AND OTHER OFFICERS ASSOCIATED WITH FLIGHT
DISCIPLINED (UPI).

CHINA

14. IN CONTINUATION OF RECENTLY HEIGHTENED ANTI-
PRC CAMPAIGN IN SOVIET PUBLICATIONS, LONG PRAVDA
ARTICLE CHARGES CHINA IS BUILDING ITSELF INTO NUCLEAR
SUPERPOWER TO "SWAY THE DESTINIES" OF OTHER ASIAN
COUNTRIES. ARTICLE COINCIDES WITH NCNA ATTACK ON
RUSSIA'S "SOCIAL-IMPERIALIST POLICY OF AGGRESSION."
EARLIER, PEOPLE'S DAILY USED LENIN QUOTES TO QUESTION
SINCERITY OF RECENT SOVIET DECLARATIONS AGAINST USE
OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (AP NYDN, PHINQ;
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REUTER, SUN; WP). NYT'S SHABAD, IN MOSCOW, NOTES
THAT RENEWED POLEMIC AGAINST PEKING APPEARS TO COINCIDE
WITH REPORTED PRC PLANS FOR HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT
AND POLICY MEETINGS; THUS, TIMING SUGGESTS MOSCOW
STILL HOPES INFLUENCE PEKING POLICY-MAKING IN SOVIET
FAVOR, IF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES ARE INDEED BEING
WEIGHED BY PRC LEADERSHIP. OBSERVES ALSO THAT SOVIET
ATTACK COMES AS NONALIGNED NATIONS, TARGETS OF PRC
AND SOVIET WOOING, PREPARE TO MEET IN ALGIERS.

15. SUN'S WU NOTES THAT FOR FIRST TIME CHINA
HAS TAKEN ITS BORDER DISPUTE WITH SOVIET BEYOND BILATERAL
CONFINES OF ALLEGING CZARIST SEIZURE OF VAST TRACTS
OF CHINESE TERRITORY AND LUMPED IT WITH CZARIST ENCROACHMENT
ON ROMANIAN AND PERSIAN TERRITORY.

16. NCNA REPORTS CHINA HAS HARVESTED BUMPER SUMMER
GRAIN CROP, EQUAL TO RECORD SUMMER GRAIN HARVEST
OF LAST YEAR (AP SUN, NYDN). USDA SAYS PRC SPRING
GRAIN HARVEST HAS BEEN GOOD IF NOT EXCELLENT, AND
ASCRISES IT TO GOOD WEATHER, INCREASED ACREAGE AND
IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY (PHINQ).

17. ORMANDY AND PHILA. ORCHESTRA, AT SARATOGA SPRINGS,
GIVE WESTERN HEMISPHERE PREMIERE OF "YELLOW RIVER"
CONCERTO COMPOSED BY PRC'S CENTRAL ORCHESTRAL COMMITTEE.
PERFORMANCE RECEIVES STANDING OVATION. ORMANDY,
IN CHANGE OF TUNE, SAYS HE LIKES CONCERTO; ORCHESTRA
WILL PLAY IT DURING 9-DAY CHINA TOUR NEXT MONTH (CSM)
(SEE COMMENT).

18. SCHLESINGER, ON "MEET THE PRESS," SAYS US WILL PROBABLY BEGIN REDUCING ITS TROOPS ON TAIWAN THIS FALL IN KEEPING WITH SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE (NYT; PHINQ; NYDN).

19. TAIWAN TEAM WINS THIRD STRAIGHT LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP (CHITRIB).

KOREA

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20SCHLESINGER TELLS INTERVIEWERS THAT US TROOPS NOW IN SK WILL REMAIN THERE UNTIL NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS STABILIZE. HE HOLDS OUT PROSPECT OF REDUCTION "MAYBE IN A YEAR OR 18 MONTHS," DEPENDING ON PROGRESS IN SEOUL-PYONGYANG RELATIONS (NYDN). NYT STORY HAS SECDEF SAYING NORTH-SOUTH AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED.

JAPAN

21. JOC'S CULLISON, IN TOKYO, SAYS CHANCES THAT ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES MAY MAKE FORMAL REQUEST OF JAPAN TO PAY FOR DIRECT OIL SHIPMENTS IN YEN DURING OPEC CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH HAVE GOJ FINANCE MINISTRY AUTHORITIES WORRIED. IF DEMAND IS MADE, "IT IS EASY TO SEE THAT TOKYO WILL BEGIN TO LOSE CONTROL OVER INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS OF THE YEN AND MAY SOON BE FORCED TO RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE OPERATIONS."

22. GOJ INFORMS JAPANESE FOOD IMPORTERS THAT WHEAT IMPORTS ARE NOT LIKELY TO FALL IN NEAR FUTURE AND PRICES CAN BE EXPECTED REMAIN HIGH (JOC).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

23. OHIO STATE PROF. STUART LOORY (NYT) REFERS TO RECENT REVELATIONS OF CLANDESTINE CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS BY US GROUND FORCES IN CAMBODIA, LAOS AND NVN. REPORTS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ANONYMOUS LETTER IN FEBRUARY 1971 FROM ONE WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE SPENT 23 MONTHS AS HEAD ADVISER TO SOG (STUDIES AND OBSERVATION GROUP), WHICH CARRIED WAR RIGHT INTO NVN HEARTLAND. THE WRITER ASSERTED THAT SOG CAN PUT RECON TEAM INTO ANY PLACE IN NVN, USING VIETNAMESE WHO WERE BORN AND RAISED IN THE SPECIFIC AREA, AND SOG WAS NOT BEYOND SENDING IN ARMED CHOPPERS AND EXECUTING MEMBERS OF THE SCOUT-RECON TEAM BY GUNNING THEM DOWN ON LANDING ZONE. LOORY INTERPRETS THIS TO MEAN THAT ONCE US MILITARY USED VIETNAMESE TO DO DIFFICULT PIECE OF DIRTY WORK, COMMANDOS WERE REWARDED WITH EXECUTION RATHER THAN RESCUE OUT OF FEELING THAT

DEAD MEN CANNOT LIVE TO TALK OF THEIR EXPLOITS AND
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COMPROMISE FUTURE MISSIONS. SAYS THE THOUGHT BESPEAKS
INHUMANITY THAT SHAMES OUR COUNTRY MORE THAN ANY WATER-
GATE "PLUMBERS" GROUP OR "ENEMIES LIST" CAN.

24. CHITRIB'S WIEDRICH IN BANGKOK RELATES HOW EX-GIS
FROM VN WAR HAVE BECOME INTERNATIONAL CROOKS MAKING
FORTUNES BY SMUGGLING NARCOTICS. CITES THOMAS CAUDILL,
NOW SERVING FIVE YEAR, NINE MONTH SENTENCE IN THAILAND,
WHOM HE AND REP. MURPHY (D-ILL) INTERVIEWED, AS EXAMPLE.

25. PRINGLE (REUTER, PEKING) (GLOBE AUG. 24) OBSERVES
SUMMER ACTIVITIES AMONG PEKING FOREIGN COMMUNITY, WHICH
DOUBLED TO MORE THAN 4,000 IN TWO YEARS, AND LOCAL
RESIDENTS; THEIR ACTIVITIES "INDICATE THAT THE CHINESE
CAPITAL IS UNDERGOING YET ANOTHER METAMORPHOSIS IN THE
CURRENT CLIMATE OF RELAXATION." BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN
CRICKET TEAMS, INCLUDING GIRLS - ASSISTED BY IMPROMPTU
FIELDERS FROM AMONG CHINESE SPECTATORS - HAVE BEEN
CONDUCTING SUNDAY "TEST MATCHES," AND INDIANS AND PAKS
ALSO WANT TO PARTICIPATE. USLO MARINE GUARDS RECENTLY
BEGAN "WORLD SERIES" OF BASEBALL GAMES AMONG FOREIGN
EMBASSIES. DIPLOMATS HAVE BROUGHT THEIR CHILDREN IN FOR
SUMMER FROM SCHOOLS IN EUROPE, AMERICAS AND AFRICA.
TEENAGERS AND EMBASSY SECRETARIES ADD VIVID SPLASH OF
COLOR TO PEKING STREETS AND THERE IS marginally MORE
CONTACT BETWEEN CHINESE AND FOREIGNERS THESE DAYS.

26. NYT'S FRANK CHING REPORTS THAT WHILE TENS OF
THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS AWAIT PEKING'S RESPONSE TO THEIR
VISA APPLICATIONS, LARGE NUMBERS OF CHINESE RESIDENTS OF
HONG KONG AND MACAO ENTER PRC WITHOUT PASSPORTS OR VISAS
BECAUSE PRC REGARDS RESIDENTS THESE AREAS NOT AS OVER-
SEAS CHINESE BUT AS "HONG KONG AND MACAO COMPATRIOTS."
NOTES THAT MOST HONG KONG RESIDENTS DO NOT GO BEYOND
KWANGTUNG PROVINCE, AND AS A RULE CAN GO TO PEKING ONLY
IF THEY ARE PART OF ORGANIZED TOUR GROUP, SUCH AS
DELEGATIONS OF UNION OFFICIALS, CULTURAL WORKERS OR
EDUCATORS. INDIVIDUALS WHO WISH TO GO TO PEKING ARE
USUALLY TOLD THAT HOTELS ARE FULLY BOOKED.

27. WP'S PAUL HUME WRITES CRITIQUE ON "KITSCHY" YELLOW
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RIVER CONCERTO. "FROM THE SOUND OF IT, I SHOULD SAY
THE PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE (CENTRAL ORCHESTRAL) COMMITTEE
WERE FRANZ LISZ AND SERGEI RACHMANINOFF, WITH SOME
HELP FROM EDVARD GRIEG. BUT SOME COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HAVE HEARD SOMETHING LIKE A NEGRO SPIRITUAL AND THE FINAL SECTION HAS A MARKED AFFINITY WITH A HOT PARISIAN CAN-CAN VIA NEW ORLEANS. THE WHOLE THING WOULD WORK WONDERS IN THE BACKGROUND OF ANY GRADE D MOVIE. IT IS A FIRST COUSIN TO THE WARSAW CONCERTO, THE 'SPELLBOUND' CONCERTO AND A LITTLE GEM YOU MAY NOT REMEMBER CALLED THE CORNISH RHAPSODY." REPORTS THAT AFTER SATURDAY'S REHEARSAL, DOS' AL HARDING BRIEFED ORCHESTRA MEMBERS ON THEIR FORTHCOMING TRIP AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS FOR OVER AN HOUR.

28. CSM'S POND IN TOKYO NOTES JAPANESE AMBIVALENCE TOWARD KIM DAE JUNG CASE. OBSERVES NIHON KEIZAI, RE-PUTED TO BE TESTING GROUND FOR NEW GOVERNMENT POLICY, FRONT-PAGING STORY ON AUG. 24 WHICH SUGGESTED JAPANESE ECON AID TO KOREA MIGHT BE CUT OR EMBASSY IN SEOUL CLOSED IF IT TURNS OUT THAT KCIA WAS BEHIND ABDUCTION; ALSO THAT JAPAN IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF ROK. ON OTHER HAND, SENIOR GOJ OFFICIAL DISMISSED NIHON KEIZAI'S SUGGESTIONS AS "COMPLETELY IRRELEVANT." SOURCE SAID JAPAN HAS ASKED FOR KIM'S RETURN AS COURTESY - BUT THAT KIM IS KOREAN ON KOREAN TERRITORY, AND THAT JAPAN DOES NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN KOREAN AFFAIRS. POND ALSO NOTES THAT ROK CLOSED YOMIURI OFFICE IN SEOUL BECAUSE OF YOMIURI'S REFUSAL TO RETRACT ARTICLE ALLEGING KCIA INVOLVEMENT IN KIDNAPPING. (SUNDAY WP OUTLOOK CARRIED MAJOR ARTICLE ON KIM CASE BY OBERDORGER).

29. NYT'S DURDIN, IN HONG KONG, REPORTS FINDINGS OF HARVARD PROF. TERRILL, WHO RECENTLY VISITED CHINA TO EXAMINE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, STATE OF EDUCATION THERE. TERRILL OBSERVES THAT SINCE GPCR, CHINA HAS MADE TREMENDOUS STRIDES TOWARD UNIVERSAL EDUCATION UP TO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL, BUT IN HIGHER EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY CONTROVERSY AND UNCERTAINTY. CHINESE AUTHORITIES SEEN STRUGGLING WITH PROBLEM OF HOW TO ABIDE BY PRINCIPLES OF GPCR, WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESCRIBE NEW PROLETARIAN SCHOOLING, WHILE ALSO PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH SUFFICIENT ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE ENABLE THEM TO COPE WITH MODERN PROBLEMS. NOTES SOME RETREAT FROM PRINCIPLES. OBSERVES ALSO THAT STUDENTS NOW GETTING INTO HIGHER INSTITUTIONS WERE PREDOMINANTLY OF TRUSTED, INDOCTRINATED ELITE; ALMOST ALL EITHER CP OR CYL MEMBERS AND NONE RED GUARDS. TERRILL, AN AUSTRALIAN, MAY RETURN TO CHINA SOON AS CONSULTANT WHEN WHITLAM VISITS PEKING LATE OCTOBER.

30. OBSERVING THAT SINGAPORE RECENTLY CELEBRATED EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY AS REPUBLIC, EX-FSO JOHN TAYLOR DEBUNKS MYTHS ABOUT SINGAPORE, ITS NONSURVIVAL AS ISLAND STATE, ETC.

NOTES ITS PROSPERITY. INDICATES EC8NOMY REMAINS HIGH ON
SINGAPORE PRIORITIES, RECALLING LEE KUAN YEW TOLD LOCAL
LAW SOCIETY: "PRAY THAT MY SUCCESSOR WILL BE AN
ECONOMIST." RUSH

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